

Community Forum on Education in Lamoine  
January 28, 2014

### Some Highlights

Approximately 30 Lamoine citizens and school staff gathered at the Lamoine School January 28th for a conversation about the education of our children. A rich array of ideas were recorded. The newly elected Lamoine School Committee appreciated all the input and will continue to foster discussions of this sort in the future.

The following topics were considered “high priority” by 3 or more participants:

1. Helping parents know how their children learn and what they are expected to learn. (form stronger partnership between school and home)
2. More availability of a nurse and a guidance counselor.
3. More after-school programs for children such as sports for non-team members, drama, foreign language, and music.
4. Full-time technical support for teachers, students, (and parents?)
5. More physical education per week for children; emphasis on healthy life styles.
6. It is essential that our school feel welcoming, that people are encouraged to visit, that there is a “personal connection” in the school. Also: “safe”, “secure”, “warm”, “exciting”.  
And that students are “engaged” in learning and in school -- collaborating with one another; a lot of small-group instruction; learning is interesting and meaningful; there is “evidence of passion about learning”.
7. “Let’s get a greenhouse” – make it a real opportunity to learn and a high-interest way of developing basic skills and knowledge; involve the community; grow food for our lunch program and “buy local food”
8. Communication between school committee and parents/young people needs to be a high priority; keep the public aware of what the school is doing; invite the public in; make sure the Select Board is knowledgeable about the education system.
9. Show the community what the actual value of our education system is – what value we are getting for our tax dollars.
10. Continue high school choice! Not just at the beginning of grade 9, but if and when a student needs to change high schools to find a “better fit”.